



TESTIMONY  
of the  
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES  
to the  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

March 12, 2010

CCM is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 93% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate this opportunity to testify before you on issues of concern to towns and cities.

**CCM *has concerns* with sections 47 and 48 of Raised Senate Bill 428 "An Act Concerning Revisions to the Public Health Statutes" which would mandate education requirements for local directors of health.**

Section 47 and 48 of SB 428 would, require that *"local directors of health hired on and after October 1, 2010 be a licensed physician and hold a graduate degree in public health from an accredited school, college, university, or institution. Those directors of health hired prior to October 1, 2010 are exempt from such requirements."*

CCM is concerned that stricter education requirements may result in increased costs for local health departments and districts. Of course public health directors should be professionals. But there is no compelling reason to think that to be a good director one needs to be both a MPH degree and be a physician. Such a stringent requirement will shrink the pool of available applicants, driving up their salary requirements.

The State cut funding to local health districts and departments last year. Local health responsibilities remain the same, indeed they have grown in recent years, particularly as part of the new focuses on responses to homeland security and pandemic flu concerns.

In short, state funding is down while local responsibilities are up. This is not the time to pass any type of laws that increase costs for local governments, especially when the benefits are not evident.

As you are well aware, municipalities are struggling to continue to provide necessary programs and services to their residents. The State should not mandate additional requirements on local health departments and districts without an increase in State per capita funding.

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If you have any questions, please contact Donna Hamzy, Legislative Associate  
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